AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please replace the second paragraph starting at line 15 with the following rewritten one:

The present invention relates to a method for setting firing temperature of cerium carbonate which is to be fired to produce a cerium oxide abrasive, a method for producing high-purity cerium oxide abrasives for planarization of semiconductors, and to abrasive lots~~rods~~ produced through the method.

On page 7, please replace the third full paragraph starting at line 14 with the following rewritten one:

(7) Cerium oxide abrasive ~~rods~~lots produced through the method as set forth in any one of (3) to (5) above, wherein the cerium oxide abrasive ~~rods~~lots contain soluble fluorine in an amount falling within a range of 20 to 1000 ppm by mass based on the mass of the cerium oxide.

On page 7, please replace the fourth full paragraph starting at line 19 with the following rewritten one:

(8) The cerium oxide abrasive ~~rods~~lots as recited in (7) above, wherein the cerium oxide abrasive ~~rods~~lots comprises cerium oxide abrasives having a specific surface area falling within a range of 9.5 to 12.2 m^2/g.

On page 7, please replace the fifth full paragraph starting at line 23 with the following rewritten one:

(9) A cerium oxide abrasive slurry comprising cerium oxide, water and a dispersant capable of dispersing cerium oxide, wherein said cerium oxide is obtained from the cerium oxide abrasive ~~rods~~lots as set forth in (7) or (8) above.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9, with the following rewritten one:

Thus, by controlling the firing temperature of cerium carbonate serving as a raw material in accordance with the fluorine content of the raw material, the produced cerium oxide ~~rods~~lots have excellent quality (i.e., crystal quality and specific surface area), with less variation thereof

within the ~~rods~~lots, comparable to that of cerium oxide produced from pure cerium carbonate as a raw material.

On page 13, please replace the second full paragraph starting at line 19 with the following rewritten one:

The range of modifying the firing temperature in accordance with the fluorine content is generally about 10°C to about 50°C. Thus, in the production of cerium oxide ~~rods~~lots, for each of which a firing test should have been conducted in many cases, a means for determining the firing temperature in accordance with the fluorine content is advantageous from the viewpoint of enhancement of production efficiency and reduction of variation in quality.